

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Dilday

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Dilday, William, 1937-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday,
Dates:	May 26, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:04:53).
Abstract:	Broadcast executive William Dilday (1937 -) was the first African American general manager of a network affiliate station and served as president and CEO of Kerimax Communications and founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists. Dilday was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 26, 2017, in Jackson, Mississippi. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_107
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Broadcast executive William Dilday was born on September 14, 1937 in Boston, Massachusetts to Alease Virginia Scott and William Horace Dilday. He graduated from the Boston Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts and received his B.S. degree in business administration from Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts.

In 1964, Dilday started his career as an operations supervisor at IBM. In 1968, Dilday became the personnel administrator and public relations director at Edgerton, Germehausen, & Grier, Inc. He then began working at WHDH-TV in Boston as director of personnel in 1969. Dilday then entered the field of journalism in 1972 as general manager of WLBT-TV/WLBM-TV in Jackson, Mississippi, as the first African American general manager of a network affiliate station. He worked at WLBT-TV/WLBM-TV until 1984. As chief operation officer, he led the station to achieve number one in Nielson and Arbitron ratings from November, 1973 to February, 1984. In 1990, Dilday joined WJTV-TV as general manager and executive vice president, where he implemented operation and programming plans that improved station ratings. After his departure from WJTV, Dilday joined *News-Press* and *Gazette* as corporate vice president. Dilday was then hired as president and chief executive officer of Kerimax Communications, Inc. Dilday has also spent time as a guest columnist for the *Jackson Clarion Ledger* in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dilday has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Peabody Award, the National Mental Health Association Media Award, and two Iris Awards from the National Association of Television Program Executives. Dilday has also been featured in *Who's Who in America* every year from 1977 until 1995. He has also been listed in *Who's Who in Black America* in 1975, 1976, 1993, 1994, and 1995.

In addition to his career in journalism, Dilday has been active in many organizations and companies. He has served as a board member for First American Bank. Dilday has also been a board member of the National Association of Television Broadcasters, and the National Broadcasting Company Affiliate Board. He has served as a member of

the Congressional Black Caucus Communication Task Force, as well as a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists and 100 Black Men. From 1978 until 1979, Dilday served as president of the Jackson Urban League.

Dilday and his wife, Maxine, have two children: Erika Lynne and Kenya Aleafe.

William Dilday was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 26, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Dilday was conducted by Denise Gines on May 26, 2017, in Jackson, Mississippi, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast executive William Dilday (1937 -) was the first African American general manager of a network affiliate station and served as president and CEO of Kerimax Communications and founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Dilday, William, 1937-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Dilday, William, 1937- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Broadcast Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, May 26, 2017. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

- Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, Section A2017_107_001_001, TRT: 1:28:54 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, Section A2017_107_001_002, TRT: 2:29:25 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, Section A2017_107_001_003, TRT: 3:29:39 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, Section A2017_107_001_004, TRT: 4:29:10 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, Section A2017_107_001_005, TRT: 5:29:06 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, Section A2017_107_001_006, TRT: 6:28:04 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with William Dilday, Section A2017_107_001_007, TRT: 7:10:35 ?